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Contact: John Asher  
Vice President, Racing Communications  
Churchill Downs Racetrack  
(502) 636-4586 (office)  
(502) 494-3626 (mobile)  
[John.Asher@KyDerby.com](mailto:John.Asher@KyDerby.com)

## **143<sup>RD</sup> RUNNINGS OF KENTUCKY DERBY, KENTUCKY OAKS HEAD CHURCHILL DOWNS' \$8.84 MILLION SPRING MEET STAKES SCHEDULE**

### **Five Grade I Contests Included in 34 Events That Feature Nine Multi-Stakes Programs and Pair of Stakes Races Previously Run at Arlington Park**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Monday, Feb. 13, 2017)** – The 143<sup>rd</sup> runnings of the \$2 million **Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (Grade I)** and the \$1 million **Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI)** are the biggest events on a strong and varied roster of 34 stakes races that offer **\$8.84 million** in total purses scheduled during **Churchill Downs Racetrack's** 38-day Spring Meet in 2017.

The Churchill Downs Spring Meet stakes roster features nine racing sessions with two or more stakes events and a pair of races previously contested at **Arlington Park**, the Louisville track's sister **Churchill Downs Incorporated** racecourse in Arlington Heights, Ill. The 2017 spring racing session will be launched by an **"Opening Night"** racing extravaganza on Saturday, April 29, presented by Stella Artois and Old Forester, and will conclude with racing under the lights on Friday, June 30.

The schedule is highlighted by three multi-stakes programs with total purses in excess of \$1 million among nine racing programs that feature two or more stakes races. The Kentucky Derby, America's greatest race, heads a powerhouse line-up of seven stakes events on Saturday, May 6 that features three Grade I events and total purses of \$4.15 million. The Kentucky Oaks Day program on the eve of Derby Day offers six stakes events with combined purses of \$2.2 million. The **"Downs After Dark"** program under the lights on Saturday, June 17, presented Stella Artois and El Jimador, features the \$500,000 **Stephen Foster Handicap (GI)** for 3-year-olds and up which tops a roster of five stakes contests with total purses of \$1.1 million.

The new additions to the Churchill Downs Spring Meet stakes schedule from 2016 are the pair of graded stakes races for fillies and mares 3-years-old and up that have been moved from Arlington Park: the 80<sup>th</sup> running of the \$100,000 **Matron (GIII)**, a 1 1/16-mile race on the main track on May 20, and the 28<sup>th</sup> running of the \$100,000 **Chicago Handicap (GIII)**, a seven-furlong race on dirt that will be run on June 24.

Of the 35 stakes races set for the Spring Meet, six have been designated as Grade I events by the Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. Along with the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks and Stephen Foster Handicap, the roster of Grade I events includes the \$500,000 **Woodford Reserve Turf Classic** for 4-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles on grass, the \$300,000 **Humana Distaff** for fillies and mares 4-years-old and up at seven furlongs and the \$300,000 **La Troienne Presented by Spirited Funds**, a 1 1/16-mile race for fillies and mares 4-years-old and up.

The schedule includes seven stakes races designated as Grade II events, twelve Grade III stakes races and one listed contest. Thirteen of the races are scheduled to be run over the Matt Winn Turf Course.

The addition of the two Arlington Park stakes races lifted total stakes purses to be offered during the upcoming meet to \$8.84 million – an increase of \$200,000 from the \$8.64 million in stakes purses offered in the 2016 Spring Meet.

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"We're very pleased with the stakes schedule Churchill Downs has assembled for the 2017 Spring Meet and we hope our horsemen in Kentucky and throughout North America will share in our enthusiasm," said Racing Secretary **Ben Huffman**. "Our racing programs for Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks Days continue to rank among the most lucrative in American racing, and our overall stakes program offers attractive options in almost every racing division. We're very happy to add a pair of stakes events from Arlington Park that would otherwise have gone on hiatus at our sister track and look forward to welcoming horsemen and owners from throughout the Midwest and beyond to compete in those races and all of the special events on our Spring Meet stakes schedule."

Eighteen of the 35 races on the Spring Meet stakes schedule will be run during the six racing days of Kentucky Derby Week that open the meet.

The racing spotlight on the "Opening Night" program under the lights that kicks off the meet and Derby Week will shine on the third running of the \$100,000 **William Walker**, a six-furlong race for 3-year-olds named for one of the African-American jockeys who dominated the early years of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby. Also featured that evening will be the **Roxelana**, a \$65,000-added overnight stakes event at six furlongs for fillies and mares ages 3 and up.

The \$100,000 **Kentucky Juvenile**, a five-furlong race for 2-year-olds on the main track, is the racing highlight of the "**Thurby**" celebration on Thursday, May 4. Also set for that program is the \$65,000-added **Opening Verse** overnight stakes for 3-year-olds and up at a mile on turf.

The Kentucky Oaks on Friday, May 5 features five stakes contests in support of the 1 1/8-mile race that is America's premier race for 3-year-old fillies. The Oaks Day schedule includes the La Troienne, the \$400,000 **Alysheba (GII)** for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/16 miles, the \$200,000 **Eight Belles (GII)** for 3-year-old fillies at seven furlongs, the \$150,000 **Edgewood Presented by Forcht Bank (GIII)** for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles on turf and the \$150,000 **Twin Spires Turf Sprint (GIII)** for 3-year-olds and up at five furlongs on the grass.

The spectacular Saturday, May 6 program headed by the Kentucky Derby also features the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic and the Humana Distaff among a trio of Grade I attractions, including three Grade II races: the \$500,000 **Churchill Downs** for 4-year-olds and up at seven furlongs, the \$300,000 **Churchill Distaff Turf Mile Presented by Longines** for fillies and mares ages 4 and up at one mile on turf and the \$300,000 **American Turf Presented by Ram Trucks** for 3-year-olds at 1 1/16 miles on the grass. The Derby Day schedule of seven stakes races is rounded out by the \$250,000 **Pat Day Mile Presented by LG&E and KU**, a Grade III race for 3-year-olds at a mile on dirt.

The Saturday, June 17 night racing program headed by the Stephen Foster Handicap, a 1 1/8-mile race for 3-year-olds and up on the main track that is one of North America's premier races for older horses, features four other graded stakes events: the \$200,000 **Wise Dan (GII)** for 3-year-olds and up at a mile on turf; the \$200,000 **Fleur de Lis Handicap (GII)** at 1 1/8 miles for fillies and mares ages 3 and up; the \$100,000 **Regret (GIII)**, a 1 1/8-mile turf race for 3-year-old fillies; and the \$100,000 **Matt Winn (GIII)** for 3-year-olds at 1 1/16 miles on the main track.

Three stakes races will be part of "Downs After Dark presented by Stella Artois and Finlandia Vodka" session that will bring the curtain down on the 38-day racing session, including two historic six-furlong races for 2-year-olds: the 116<sup>th</sup> running of the \$100,000 **Bashford Manor (GIII)** and the 117<sup>th</sup> running of the \$100,000 **Debutante**, a Listed race for fillies. Owner **John C. Oxley** and trainer **Mark Casse** joined forces to win both races in 2016, taking the Bashford Manor with eventual Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) winner and 2-year-old champion **Classic Empire** and the Debutante with future Grade I winner **Pretty City Dancer**. The \$65,000-added **Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes** for 3-year-olds and up at seven furlongs is also set for the closing night program.

Spring Meet racing days that will feature two stakes races the May 20 program highlighted by the **\$100,000 Louisville Handicap (GIII)** and the transplanted Grade III **Matron**; the May 27 program headed by the **\$100,000 Winning Colors (GIII)** and the \$65,000-added **Keertana Overnight Stakes**; and the renewals of the **\$100,000 Aristides (GIII)** and the \$65,000-added **Mighty Beau Overnight Stakes** on June 3.

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## Churchill Downs 2017 Spring Meet Stakes Schedule April 29-June 30

Date	Race (w/Purse & Grade)	Age & Gender	Distance	Course
Sat., April 29	<b>Opening Night Presented by Stella Artois and Old Forester</b>			
	\$100,000 William Walker	3YO	6 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Roxelana Overnight Stakes	F & M 3YO & Up	6 Furlongs	Dirt
Thurs., May 4	<b>Thurby</b>			
	\$100,000 Kentucky Juvenile	2YO	5 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Opening Verse Overnight Stakes	3YO & Up	1 Mile	Turf
Fri., May 5	<b>Kentucky Oaks Day</b>			
	\$1 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI)	3YO Fillies	1 1/8 Miles	Dirt
	\$300,000 La Troienne Presented by Spirited Funds (GI)	F & M 4YO & Up	1 1/16 Miles	Dirt
	\$400,000 Alysheba (GII)	4YO & Up	1 1/16 Miles	Dirt
	\$200,000 Eight Belles (GII)	3YO Fillies	7 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$150,000 Edgewood Presented by Forcht Bank (GIII)	3YO Fillies	1 1/16 Miles	Turf
	\$150,000 Twin Spires Turf Sprint (GIII)	3YO & Up	5 Furlongs	Turf
Sat., May 6	<b>Kentucky Derby Day</b>			
	\$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (GI)	3YO	1 1/4 Miles	Dirt
	\$500,000 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic (GI)	4YO & Up	1 1/8 Miles	Turf
	\$300,000 Humana Distaff (GI)	F & M 4YO & Up	7 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$500,000 Churchill Downs (GII)	4YO & Up	7 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$300,000 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile Presented by Longines (GII)	F & M 4YO & Up	1 Mile	Turf
	\$300,000 American Turf Presented by Ram Trucks (GII)	3YO	1 1/16 Miles	Turf
	\$250,000 Pat Day Mile Presented by LG&E and KU (GIII)	3YO	1 Mile	Dirt
Sat., May 13	\$65,000-added Unbridled Sydney Overnight Stakes	3YO & Up	5 Furlongs	Turf
Sat., May 20	<b>Preakness Stakes Simulcast</b>			
	\$100,000 Louisville Handicap (GIII)	3YO & Up	1 1/2 Miles	Turf
	\$100,000 Matron (GIII)	F & M 3YO & Up	1 1/16 Miles	Dirt
Sat., May 27	\$100,000 Winning Colors (GIII)	3YO & Up	6 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Keertana Overnight Stakes	F & M 3YO & Up	1 1/2 Miles	Turf
Sat., June 3	\$100,000 Aristides (GIII)	3YO & Up	6 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Mighty Beau Overnight Stakes	3YO & Up	5 Furlongs	Turf
Sat., June 10	<b>Belmont Stakes Simulcast</b>			
	\$100,000 Old Forester Mint Julep (GIII)	F & M 3YO & Up	1 1/16 Miles	Turf
Sat., June 17	<b>Downs After Dark Presented by Stella Artois and El Jimador</b>			
	\$500,000 Stephen Foster Handicap (GI)	3YO & up	1 1/8 Miles	Dirt
	\$200,000 Wise Dan (GII)	3YO & up	1 1/16 Miles	Turf
	\$200,000 Fleur de Lis Handicap (GII)	F & M 3YO & Up	1 1/8 Miles	Dirt
	\$100,000 Matt Winn (GIII)	3YO	1 1/16 Miles	Dirt
	\$100,000 Regret (GIII)	3YO Fillies	1 1/8 Miles	Turf
Sat., June 24	\$100,000 Chicago Handicap (GIII)	F & M 3YO & Up	7 Furlongs	Dirt
Fri., June 30	<b>Downs After Dark Presented by Stella Artois and Finlandia Vodka</b>			
	\$100,000 Bashford Manor (GIII)	2YO	6 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$100,000 Debutante (Listed)	2YO Fillies	6 Furlongs	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes	3YO & Up	7 Furlongs	Dirt

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 143<sup>rd</sup> running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 6, 2017. The track's 2017 Spring Meet is scheduled for April 29-June 30. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times and the event will return to the track on Nov. 2-3, 2018. Information is available at [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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